

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON THE GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2010, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, as set out on pages xx to xx.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and in the manner required by the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor-General's responsibility

As required by section 188 of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), section 4 of the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and section 126(3) of the MFMA, my responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and *General Notice 1570 of 2009* issued in *Government Gazette 32758 of 27 November 2009*. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Gert Sibande District Municipality as at 30 June 2010, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and in the manner required by the MFMA.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

As required by the PAA and in terms of *General Notice 1570 of 2009* issued in *Government Gazette 32758 of 27 November 2009*, I include below my findings on the report on predetermined objectives, compliance with the MFMA, and financial management (internal control).

Predetermined objectives

Material findings on the report on predetermined objectives, as set out on pages xx to xx, are reported below:

Non-compliance with regulatory and reporting requirements

No mid-year performance assessment

The accounting officer of the Gert Sibande District Municipality did not (by 25 January of each year) assess the performance of the municipality during the first half of the financial year, taking into account the municipality's service delivery performance during the first half of the financial year and the service delivery targets and performance indicators set in the service delivery and budget implementation plan, as required by section 72 of the MFMA.

Compliance with laws and regulations

The financial statements were not prepared in accordance with applicable legislation

The municipality did not prepare financial statements that fairly presents the state of affairs of the municipality, its performance against its budget, its management of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities, its business activities, its financial results, and its financial position as at the end of the financial year, in accordance with legislative requirements.

INTERNAL CONTROL

I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements and the report on predetermined objectives and compliance with the MFMA, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control.

The matters reported below are limited to the significant deficiencies regarding the findings on the report on predetermined objectives.

Financial and performance management

Quality, reliable financial statements and management information

The financial statements and performance information were subject to material corrections during the audit. This is indicative of inadequate review and monitoring processes.

*Auditor - General
Nelspruit*

2 December 2010



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